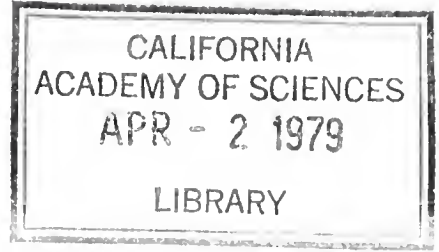


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the gull

Volume 61 Berkeley, Calif. April 1979 Number 4

The Diverse Beauty of Ecuador

South America is becoming increasingly better known as more people visit its various parts, each rich in unique wildlife and flora. Ecuador is a special area where one can travel from lush jungle to the snow-capped Andean volcanos in a matter of hours.

The speakers for our general membership meeting in April have led several trips to Ecuador and are thoroughly familiar with that country. Bob Wolfson and Bill Abbott have prepared a slide show that will give you a real insight into the diversity and abundance of wildlife in Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Bob is co-leader with Bob Stewart for a Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory-sponsored tour, "Birds of Ecuador," which will include a tour of the Galapagos in August.

We will meet on Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda in Berkeley. Our membership meetings are open to the public — bring a friend.

—RAY HASEY, *Program Chairman*

Field Trips Calendar

Saturday, April 7—Lake Merced, San Francisco. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the south end of Sunset Blvd. in the Lake Merced Circle. This is a fine time to see spring migrants as well as many of the birds which have wintered in the area. After birding North Lake we will drive to Ft. Funston to the Bank Swallow colony. Lunch is optional. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

Wednesday, April 11—Mini trip to Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot. Take Hwy. 580 east, watch for turnoff to Hwy. 680 near Dublin. Take Hwy. 680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd., go left, follow the sign to Sunol Park. We may see Lark Sparrows, Canyon Wrens, Dippers, Golden Eagles and resident birds of the area. Leaders: Ruth Voss and Delpha de Timofeev. (632-5176.) Bring lunch. (✓)

Saturday, April 14—Bothe-Napa State Park. This is a beautiful place in the spring with warblers, vireos, woodpeckers and wildflowers. Take Hwy. 80 north to the Napa turnoff, connect with Hwy. 29, go through St. Helena and watch for the park sign just past the Old Bale Mill. Meet in the parking lot at 9 a.m. There is a charge per car, so pool if possible. Bring lunch. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Sunday, April 15—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at 43rd and Fulton Ave., the North Lake in the Chain of Lakes. We will take the annual Easter walk around the lakes to look for resident and spring migrants. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020 during work hours). Lunch is optional. (✓)

Saturday, April 21—Putah Creek. Meet at 9 a.m. at the top of Monticello Dam at the east end of Lake Berryessa. From Napa, go north on Hwy. 121 to Hwy. 128 and east to the dam or take the Pleasant Valley Road from I-80 (about 4 miles east of Fairfield) north to Hwy. 128 and west to the dam. Bring lunch. We will bird the dam and along Putah Creek. Canyon and Rock Wrens, Phainopeplas, Northern Orioles and a wide variety of other resident species may be expected. Leader: Bob O'Brien (526-8241). (✓)

Sunday, April 22—Mines Road, Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Lucky Store at S. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will drive on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids or buy lunch at the Branding Iron around noon. The habitat is desert-like so we can expect to see species such as Northern Oriole, Phainopepla, Lewis' Woodpecker and a number of others. Roadrunners and wild turkeys have been seen on this trip. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Tuesday, April 24—Mini trip to Tennessee Valley. Meet at 9:30 a.m. and bring lunch. Going north across the Golden Gate Bridge, take

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the Mill Valley exit under the Richardson Bay Bridge and in one-half mile turn left at the Tennessee Valley sign. Drive to the end of the road, about one mile. We will walk on a level trail to see land and sea birds and spring wildflowers. Leader: Pat Triggs (664-8502). (✓)

Saturday/Sunday, April 28-29—Caswell Memorial Park. You have a choice of camping in this lovely park, enjoying the whole weekend, or coming either Saturday or Sunday morning. Take Hwy. 580 and 205 past Tracy to Manteca. Just on the other side of Manteca, turn south on Hwy. 99 and watch immediately for the Caswell Park sign. We will meet both mornings at the ranger entry station at 9 a.m. Leader: Genc Hull (525-6893) (✓)

Sunday, April 29—Land's End, San Francisco (exploratory trip). Meet at 8 a.m. in the dirt parking lot above Sutro Baths on Point Lobos Ave. We'll walk along the road that parallels the cliffs to Lincoln Park and return by another route, about 3 miles. Lunch optional. Leader: Alan Hopkins (668-4840). (✓)

Saturday, May 5—Drakes Estero. Meet at 10 a.m. at the Drakes Beach parking lot. Drive west on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. to the town of Olema, turn right on Hwy. 1 and left to Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Follow the road north past Inverness, then west to Drakes Beach. Bring lunch. We hope to see Harbor Seal pups and late migrant shorebirds. Leader: Sarah Allen (456-0187). (✓)

PLAN AHEAD

Saturday/Sunday, May 19-20—North Yosemite. You may wish to reserve lodging for this trip at the Sugar Pine Ranch, Groveland, Ca. 95321, (209) 962-7823, or in Yosemite Valley. Complete details in the *May Gull*.

Saturday/Sunday, June 16-17—Yuba Pass.

Friday/Sunday, July 6-8—Lassen National Park.

We need leaders for summer trips. If you would like to lead a local trip or one to a favorite vacation spot, please call Dan Murphy (564-0074).

Carpooling—Trips marked (✓) are those for which carpooling arrangements will be made. If you can take a passenger or two or if you need a ride call Kate Partridge at 642-2881 (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or 548-0779 (evenings until 9:30).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

February Observations - Through February 25

STILL WINTERING

To save space I will summarize under this heading notable birds mentioned earlier, reported well into this month, and likely still present. Birds believed to have departed during February are discussed in the next section. In most cases these birds were reported by many observers (mob).

Ross' Goose at Crespi Pond; male Tufted Ducks at Muddy Hollow and at Lake Merritt (Feb. 24 - AdeQ); Broad-winged Hawk at West Pittsburg (first seen Dec. 9 - AGi); 200 Mountain Plovers in Panoche Valley (also smaller groups at several usual Central Valley sites); breeding plumage female **Northern Phalarope** at Fremont (Feb. 7 - SFB); male **Black-throated Blue Warbler** at Auburn (Feb. 11 - JML); Black-and-white Warbler and adult male American Redstart at Watsonville Sewage Plant (the latter spending its third winter there - EM, AM); male **Great-tailed Grackle** back at Aquatic Park, San Francisco (BD); Sharp-tailed Sparrows at Bolinas Lagoon (GA, DD, *et al.*) and Palo Alto (mob, JM); Harris' Sparrow at Palo Alto.

PROBABLY DEPARTED

The American Golden Plovers at Spaletta Ranch disappeared on or after Feb. 11 (DMcC). Del Valle Regional Park's Williamson's Sapsucker was last reported Jan. 25 (KH). The last sighting of the **Common Skylark** at Hall Ranch, on Feb. 19 (AG), followed by one day the final observation of two Lapland Longspurs there. Fifty Lapland Longspurs remained through Jan. 28, but only about six could be found on Feb. 6, after which only two were seen.

MONTEREY BAY PELAGICS

The most exciting Monterey Bay bird was one on Feb. 24 believed to be a **Greater Shearwater** (JD, KG, LAAS). If correct, this would be the first North Pacific record for this Atlantic species. A few Manx Shearwaters remain, with about five seen on both Feb. 11 (GGAS) and Feb. 18 (WFO). However, Northern Fulmars disappeared abruptly in mid-January. Black-legged Kittiwakes arrived as if to replace fulmars, with 200 present Feb. 11 (GGAS). All these kittiwakes were adult, although immatures had been off Bodega in January (JM, WFO). Such erratic occurrences of kittiwakes and fulmars and the presence of only adult or only immature kittiwakes are common but intriguing phenomena. Much more surprising was an adult **Sabine's Gull** on Feb. 18 (ST, GMcC), when it should have been off the coast of Peru. Two or three Xantus' Murrelets the same day (WFO) were not really extralimital, but one in Moss Landing (EM, AM) was unusual.

OTHER WATERBIRDS

Four groups of Cattle Egrets were reported: four by Discovery Bay Jan. 30 (DE, SM), nine at Merced National Wildlife Refuge Feb. 11 (EM), eight or ten still at Martinez Feb. 23 (DE) and 12-15 near Los Banos Feb. 24 (JZ). A (the?) **Bewick's Swan** with five cygnets passed through Tulac Lake in early Feb. (EON) suggesting that it wintered in our area again. A count of **55** Barrow's Goldeneyes on Lake Merritt Feb. 2 (SFB) is probably the largest group ever seen in California. Harlequin Ducks seemed rather numerous; besides the males wintering at Moss Landing (mob) and Año Nuevo (DJ, *et al.*), five males lined the Pacific Grove shore (SH, mob) and a female and two males visited the Farallones (PRBO). Immature Glaucous Gulls on the Farallones (up to two, Jan. 30-Feb. 4 - PRBO) and at Moss Landing Jan. - Feb. 10 (SH, JH, *et al.*) were not surprising, but our second **adult** of this winter, on Victoria Island Jan. 30 (SM, DE) definitely was. Of comparable rarity was a first winter **Laughing Gull** at Moss Landing from Jan. 22 (LS), tentatively identified from photos (LCB) and confirmed Feb. 17-18 (SFB, LCB, *et al.*). Meanwhile a Franklin's Gull was spotted at the Salinas River Feb. 15 (RS).

LANDBIRDS

Long-eared Owl calls rewarded owlers in Redwood Regional Park Jan. 23 (SL, BMCC). This species often roosts socially in conifers or thickets. A roost discovered earlier at Home Ranch, Point Reyes (DR), still contained at least eight Long-eared Owls on Feb. 10 (BS, CB, *et al.*). As expected, a wintering *Empidonax* found at Lake Merced Jan. 27 was a Western Flycatcher (AH, DL). The flock of Mountain Bluebirds in southern Panoche Valley contained a high of 60 individuals Feb. 3 (SFB, *et al.*). Northern Shrikes are scarce, but one is wintering at Gray Lodge (BED). More conspicuously absent have been our usual large numbers of berry-eating birds, notably waxwings. The Yellow Warbler in a hedge at Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, Feb. 18 (LCB, *et al.*) was not only very rare in winter but in a strange location; shouldn't it have located the Carmel River or similar habitat by mid-February? A Northern Waterthrush found at Five Brooks Feb. 10 (DEL) remained at least through Feb. 25 (mob). A female "Baltimore" Northern Oriole in Pacific Grove Jan. 28 (PB, LH) represented our only report for the genus.

Three Lark Buntings were found along Little Panoche Rd. at the Panoche Access Rd. Jan. 28 (VF, MAS). Subsequent sightings through Feb. 12 involved two males and two females (JM, mob), although three was the maximum seen together. Two were seen Feb. 18 (DE). A male Lark Bunting 0.6 mile north Feb. 3 (SFB, *et al.*) may have

been one of this group. This area also had a Brewer's Sparrow Feb. 4-12 (GA, JL). A Swamp Sparrow at the Shields Salt Marsh, Inverness, Feb. 25 (AG, WG) showed adult coloration. Two Lapland Longspurs at West Pittsburg Feb. 5-9 (DE, SF, BR) established the first Contra Costa County record.

Observers: Garth Alton, Stephen F. Bailey, Laurence C. Binford, Clark Blake, Patti Brown, Nancy Conzett, Donna Dittmann, Bruce E. Duel, Jon Dunn, Bobbie Dykas, Vickie Dziadosz, Doug Ellis (DEI), Dick Erickson (DE), Steve Foreman, Virgil Frizzel, Kimball Garrett, Al Ghiorso (AG), Wilma Ghiorso, Alan Gille (AGi), Ken Hainebach, Lana Hameister, Jay Harrison, Sidney Harrison, Alan Hopkins, Danne Jones, Lee Jones, Jeri M. Langham, Donna Lion, John Luther, Susanne Luther, Akiko Makishima, Eugene Makishima, many observers (mob), Brian McCafferey, Guy McCaskie, Dianne McClung, Scott Moorehouse, Joe Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Harriet Huber and Steve Morrell), Edward O'Neill, Western Field Ornithologists, Alan de Queiros, David Rice, Bob Richmond, Dan Rody (DR), Paul Roush, Golden Gate Audubon Society, Los Angeles Audubon Society, Marin Audubon Society, Larry Spear, Rich Stallcup, Bob Stewart, Nick Story, Scott Terrell, Jon Zablackis.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720 (548-9507)

Birding the Presidio of San Francisco

The Presidio of San Francisco is a large park-like area in the north-west corner of the city adjacent to the Golden Gate Bridge. For two centuries it has been a military reservation and so inviolate to the spread of urban development. Large tracts were planted to eucalyptus, Monterey cypress and pine, and other areas where buildings and homes are clustered have been planted and landscaped with shrubbery and lawns. Like Golden Gate Park, much of the land was originally covered with sand dunes, but there are outcroppings of serpentine with an interesting association of rare plants still growing wild in these places.

Like an oasis in the desert, this green community attracts a wide variety of birds. Cooper's Hawk and Kestrel are known to breed and both Great Horned Owl and Screech Owl are resident. Large flocks of California Quail gather to feed through the underbrush and on the wide lawns. In winter both White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows abound. An occasional White-throated Sparrow has been recorded from these flocks. In spring and early summer the White-crowned

Sparrow is one of the most common nesting species, a surprising fact for visiting birders more accustomed to searching out this species in its high mountain breeding habitat. Other common nesting species are the Mourning Dove, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Bushtit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Robin, Hutton's Vireo, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Oregon Junco and Song Sparrow.

One of the rarest species suspected of nesting on or near the Presidio is the Red Crossbill. It has been recorded at all seasons of the year, often with immature individuals in the small flocks. Perhaps the best areas to search for this bird are around the edges of the golf course and on the slope below the Arguello Street overlook. It has also been seen in the woods between Lincoln Boulevard and Baker Beach on the west side of the Presidio.

More certain are the Hooded Orioles which have been nesting in a small colony near Letterman Hospital for at least the last 12 years. The nests seem to be placed only in the fan-leaf palms here—lovely hanging, purse-shaped nests fastened neatly to the underside of a palm leaf and constructed of the fine, tough fibers pulled by the birds from the leaf edges. Search carefully the row of palms along Presidio Boulevard above and below the intersection with Lombard Street. There are usually several pairs here and another pair or two near the Thrift Shop and the hospital parking lot near the Lombard Gate. There are usually a number of dummy, or "practice," nests in these trees, but quiet careful watching will reveal the occupied ones. The first birds appear around mid-April with May perhaps the best month to watch their activities. Mockingbirds also nest in this general area.

Occasional Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (the Red-breasted race) are found here and Flickers and Downy Woodpeckers are fairly common. Large flocks of Cedar Waxwings come and go in winter and spring. Both kinglets, as well as Hermit Thrush, Winter Wren, Townsend and Audubon Warblers, are regular winter visitors.

During spring migration almost anything can happen in such an environment. Western Tanagers can be common and so can some of the warblers and vireos. One spring day a Tennessee Warbler announced his presence by singing in the big willow on MacArthur Boulevard, and was then seen by many observers. Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Bluebird and Lazuli Bunting, while seldom seen in very large numbers, are regular spring transients.

The fall hawk migration can be spectacular over the Presidio. Most of the species recorded from the Point Diablo hawk lookout at Fort Cronkhite cross over here: Red-tailed Hawks are common and there

may be fine accipiter or Osprey days. One of the rarest fall migrants ever recorded on the Presidio was the Clark's Nutcracker. In late October, 1961, a group of at least seven birds appeared and spent some days among the pines on Washington Boulevard where it overlooks the ocean (*fide* Naomi Svenningsen).

There is much waterfront on the Presidio—from the baylands on the north side around to Fort Point, under the Golden Gate Bridge and thence to the ocean at Baker Beach. Most productive has been the bay side where loons, grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers, Surf Scoters and other ducks may be seen close to land. Oldsquaw has been recorded during several winters. Murres can often be seen from shore and sometimes Northern Phalarope, but lucky are the few who have seen jaegers or skua pursuing gulls or terns from the commissary beach. Forster's Tern can be common and in late summer and fall the Elegant and Common Tern should be watched for. Shorebirds such as Black Turnstone and Sanderling can be common to abundant along the shore here, especially in stormy weather, and the Willet is usually present in small numbers. Most surprising was a Wandering Tattler working the edge of the water on the sandy beach at the Coast Guard Station one late summer day.

Many species of gull can be studied to advantage around Fort Point and on the old Crissy Field landing strip. This is also a good place to study loons and cormorants as they may be quite close, especially around the fishing piers at the Coast Guard Station and at Fort Point. Brown Pelicans are quite common now from about June on through the summer and are usually accompanied by a retinue of Heermann's Gulls. White Pelicans may also appear in small flocks outside the breeding season—always a dramatic sight as they soar by the Golden Gate Bridge and down along the Marina.

So whatever the season, the birder can expect more than the usual excitement of city birding while exploring the Presidio. Stop first at the Military Police Station for a map if you are unfamiliar with points mentioned above. Most of the area is open to the public, but be sure to respect the off-limits signs and private residences. Good birding.

—MARY LOUISE ROSEGAY

Birding Ida Clayton Road

Ida Clayton Road leaves State Highway 128 about 6.5 miles north of Calistoga in eastern Sonoma County, then winds up the northwest slope of Mt. St. Helena. The road passes through a number of habitats which allows the observer to see a large number of birds. It is best to

visit the area in the period from early May to mid-June. At this season the summer residents have arrived and set up territories, and singing is at its maximum. Start in the early morning and plan to spend nearly a full day.

Immediately after you turn off Highway 128, stop in the wooded area. There is a small pond here on the right side of the road. Most of the following species can be easily noted in this area: California Quail, Common Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Flycatcher, Western Wood Peewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Plain Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, American Robin, Swainson's Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Brown-headed Cowbird, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Purple Finch.

Next, proceed up the mountain. As you pass through some open fields with scattered trees, look for Western Kingbird, Western Bluebird and Lark Sparrow. A little farther on, you will come to a south facing hill covered with rocks and sage. At this location you can expect to see or hear the following birds: Anna's Hummingbird, Purple Martin (learn the flight note), Scrub Jay, Wrentit, Rock Wren (some luck required with this one), California Thrasher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow and Black-chinned Sparrow (not every year). On a few occasions, Canon Wren has been noted in this area.

The next area to visit is the mixed deciduous forest about 2 miles up the road. Look here for Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk (has nested here), Golden Eagle, Mountain Quail, Pileated Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, Steller's Jay (in the canyons), Solitary Vireo, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Dark-eyed Junco, and Chipping Sparrow.

The next stop is just below the crest where a small stream crosses the road (through a culvert). There is a good pull-off here. Have your lunch, then begin birding for the following species: Northern Pygmy Owl, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Nashville Warbler (does not breed here but pauses here and sings during its migration), Yellow-rumped Warbler (has been seen singing and may breed here), Hermit Warbler (migratory), MacGillivray's Warbler (nests here), Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak (very common). Be sure to check around Goat's Roost, a large rocky outcropping south of the road near the top. Look for White-throated Swifts as they circle about the rocks.

If you stay until evening you will find the Poorwill quite common in

the rocky-sage areas. Usually they are easily seen in your car headlights on the road in the early darkness of the evening.

Reprinted from *Birds of Sonoma County* by Gordon L. Bolander and Benjamin D. Parmeter. Available through the Redwood Region Ornithological Society, 199 Calistoga Rd., Santa Rosa, CA 95405, for \$4 plus \$.50 postage and handling and \$.24 sales tax.

Conservation Notes

GARBAGE BURNING PLANT ON SAN LEANDRO BAY? The city of Alameda is currently seeking approval for construction of a \$100 million power plant that would burn solid waste to generate electricity. An answer to both energy and waste disposal problems? Well, maybe.

The proposed site for the plant is Mt. Trashmore, the old Alameda dump just east of Bay Farm Island bridge. The huge facility, if built, would generate heavy volumes of new air pollution and greatly increase big truck traffic in the area. It would occupy a shoreline site now planned for inclusion in the East Bay Regional Parks system and would probably spoil what little wildlife habitat is left around the Bay.

In 1931 the State Legislature passed a bill establishing a 1600-acre area of water and marsh as the San Leandro Bay Waterfowl Refuge, but since that time, after much filling and industrial development, the marsh has been reduced to 70 acres. The power plant would be adjacent to Doolittle Pond, probably the richest concentration of shorebird habitat left around the Bay.

The *Alameda Times-Star* writes that some giant international energy corporations have expressed interest in financing the project, providing them a "lucrative tax shelter safe enough to tie up long term investment dollars," but that other financing alternatives — including public ownership — are also being considered. Project backers are now attempting to clear the strict state water and air quality standards.

GGAS has filed an objection with the State Solid Waste Management Board which must decide on the application. The benefits of recycling solid waste to produce energy are great, but in this case are outweighed by the wrong siting of the plant, the destruction of habitat and future parklands and the great increase in pollution. Energy at such a high cost to the environment is too costly.

RUSSIANS TO END WHALING. At a scientific meeting of the International Whaling Commission held in La Jolla recently the head of the Soviet delegation announced that Russia plans to end whaling in five years. They plan first to eliminate their whaling in the north

Pacific and later in the Antarctic. This follows last year's decision by the Japanese to store one of their fishing fleets. This is good, but the reasons and motives are not. Cost-benefit analysis dictates whaling will be given up as soon as the size of the catch drops enough to make it unprofitable. New fleets will not be built. Whaling becomes unprofitable as the whales disappear. The Russian decision is a result of the damage they and the Japanese have done.

The 31st meeting of the International Whaling Commission opens in London this July. Concerned people around the world are proposing a ten-year moratorium on all deep sea whaling in the oceans of the world. This resolution has been introduced to the plenary session of the IMC four times since 1972 and it needs a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote to pass. This year chances for its introduction and passage are good but public support is needed. Please write President Carter, Secretary of State Vance and Commerce Secretary Kreps. Tell them you support the ten-year moratorium and that you want the U.S. to introduce such a resolution this year.

POLLUTION AND TREES. Planting trees in cities has many advantages — one acre of trees can remove 3.7 tons of sulfur dioxide and 12.9 tons of dust from the air each year. It absorbs carbon dioxide from 50 cars. Trees suffer much stress in large cities and the average lifespan of a New York tree is only seven years.

CONSERVATION MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN MAY. The May GGAS membership meeting is presented by the Conservation Committee. This year's event on Thursday, May 10, will feature nature walks around Jewel Lake starting at 6:30 p.m. followed at 7:30 by an excellent film, "Wilderness Journey," the semi-documentary story of an Alaskan Indian boy and his forced journey through the northern wilderness on foot and by kayak. The scenic and wildlife footage is magnificent and children are especially invited to attend.

—CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Elsie B. Roemer Conservation Awards

It is with great pride that the Board of Directors of GGAS announce the establishment of the Elsie B. Roemer Conservation Awards in her honor. These awards will be presented every year at the annual dinner to those persons who have worked long and hard to further the cause of conservation. The Board has felt for some time that this recognition was long overdue.

Space Still Available on GGAS Tours

The following tours still have a few spaces available:

Southern Florida Birding Tour, May 5-13, and *Southeastern Arizona Birding Special*, June 24-30. For information call Mike Wihler at 664-6567.

Humpback Whale Adventure, Maui, Hawaii, April 7-15, and *Sea of Cortez*, April 22-29. For information call Adventures International at 531-6564.

Africa, Madagascar, Selous Game Reserve and Kenya, Seychelles: After some initial problems with the first Africa trip that we had scheduled, we have now organized the trip in two parts.

Trip 1 will be to Madagascar and the Selous Game Reserve (Tanzania). Don Turner, the leader, will take only five people who must be willing and able to endure sub-standard travel conditions. This trip will start about two weeks before the beginning of Trip 2. Cost is not yet available.

Trip 2, limited to 15 people, will be to Kenya and the Seychelles Islands from August 5-21. The cost will be about \$2,800; leaders are Don Turner and Mike Wihler. An optional week after the 21st will be planned for a trip to northern Tanzania to visit the game parks. Cost for this extension will be about \$600. These trips can be taken separately or together.

For information call Forum Travel at 843-8294.

—EXTENDED FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

PRBO Bird Song Excursion

Bob Stewart and Marie Mans will conduct a weekend excursion June 1-3 in Yosemite which will concentrate on the awareness and recognition of bird songs. There will be no charge for the trip, although donations toward the purchase of a slide projector for the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory are welcomed.

Meet at 5 p.m. Friday, June 1, at the Foresta Group Campground, Yosemite National Park. Just west of the tunnel on Big Oak Flat Road take road signed "Foresta." The camp is located about four miles down that road on a spur road to the left just before reaching the settlement of Foresta. Look for PRBO sign.

For more information call PRBO at 868-1221 or Marie Mans at 284-7681.

Alaskan Adventure

The San Francisco Zoological Society is offering a unique wildlife excursion into Alaska July 17 - August 3, an 18-day adventure that starts with a visit to the highly regarded Vancouver Aquarium and Zoo, then on to Prince Rupert, Juneau, overnight aboard ship on Glacier Bay, to Anchorage, King Salmon, Katmai, Camp Denali in McKinley Park and the Pribilof Islands. This great North American wilderness affords an unusual travel experience; the summer season tour is especially developed to study natural history, the flora and fauna of one of the last great wilderness areas. For information call the Zoological Society office at 661-2026.

Cooper Society Meeting in Berkeley

The Northern California Chapter of the Cooper Ornithological Society will meet at 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 12, in Room 2503, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley. The program will feature an illustrated talk on "Beach Violence: Winter Territoriality in the Sanderling" by Peter Myers of the Bodega Marine Laboratory, University of California. There will, as usual, be a Dutch treat dinner before the meeting at 6:30 p.m. at La Val's, 1834 Euclid Ave. (½ block north of Hearst) at the north edge of the U.C. campus. Cooper members and interested non-members are invited to both the meeting and the dinner. Inquiries about membership in the Chapter should be directed to Nick Story, president, at 642-5038 (work) or 527-0210 (home); or Matt Leddy, secretary, at 993-5330 (home, Pacifica). The Chapter meets four or more times per year to hear talks by (mostly) local ornithologists and has sponsored symposia on such topics as falconry and studies of the Acorn Woodpecker.

Galapagos Island Symposium

The California Academy of Sciences has been selected by the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galapagos to host an international meeting concerned with the status of knowledge about and conservation priorities of those enchanted isles. A public symposium will be held on April 6 and 7 in the Morrison Auditorium at the Academy in Golden Gate Park and will include illustrated lectures by experts about their research. Topics such as communication among Darwin's Finches, polychromatism among Lava Gulls, competition between introduced and endemic plants and animals, studies on marine iguanas, conservation priorities, and the sex-related foraging behavior of Galapagos Hogfishes will be presented.

This free symposium will be open to the public and begins at 10:30 each day. For more information call 221-5100.

A Letter from the Reynolds

Laurel and Ric Reynolds will be remembered with much fondness by long-time GGAS members. Both served terms as president during the lean and formative years of the society and the extent of their influence and contributions is immense. They are now living in the state of Washington and in January sent a letter to their many friends. It reads in part:

"Another year has passed since we came to live at Guillemot Cove the year around. The new house has proved handsome and comfortable . . . Ric's major occupation has been gardening and planting around the house. He has planted, divided and transplanted a near infinity of clover along with rhododendrons, manzanita, azaleas and little conifers. Although the seed-eating birds were at first supercilious about the new quarters, the low temperatures of this Christmas have brought us to better terms. Juncos, towhees, Purple Finches, Song Sparrows and jays are hopping out of the thickets of huckleberry and salal to accept our provender and today a flicker appeared at the suet cake.

"One of the special privileges of the Cove is that we live on the edge of a marsh and open fields, but also on the edge of a deep and usually peaceful forest. Although loggers took every mature cedar but one in Kitsap County, the old maples and Douglas Fir have by now made another nearly climax forest.

"At Christmas one tends to count blessings. The vegetable garden was bountiful . . . The doctor (Ric) with the hoe kept it free of weeds . . . all through the summer and fall, Laurel embroidered work shirts and blue jeans with rabbits, butterflies, dragonflies, angleworms, snails. There were some fortunate recipients at Christmas . . .

"This may sound idyllic, and sometimes, in some ways, it is. There is also much that is hard to bear — the loss of physical and intellectual strength, separation from those we most love . . .

"We are a year older and a year frailer . . . Just remember that we remember you with love and gratitude."

New NAS President

GGAS wishes to extend a warm welcome to Russell Peterson, the new President of the National Audubon Society. Dr. Peterson is well qualified with a distinguished background in industry and the non-profit field as well as in government. He is the former chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality. To outgoing President Elvis J. Stahr we say thank you for a decade of service to the Audubon cause.

ANNUAL JUNE DINNER

Even at this early date mark your calendar for Friday, June 15, 1979, the date of GGAS' annual dinner and presentation of new Board members. It will be held at H's Lordships on the Berkeley Marina. We are very honored to have as our guest speaker Congressman Ronald V. Dellums whose conservation voting record is one of the best in the House of Representatives. The program topic will be Mono Lake and will be presented by the Mono Lake Committee. Hope to see you there!

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

For Audubon Canyon Ranch

In memory of	Gift of
Andrew Hass, Sr.	Mrs. T. C. Macormack

For GGAS

In honor of	
Marie Mans	Eugenia Hull
Patricia Triggs	

In memory of	
R. B. Giles	Berkeley Garden Club
Rachael Levy	Dr. and Mrs. Robert Mendle

Jean Loeffel	Eunice Elton
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Ida Marie Petrig	Mr. and Mrs. Alberic de Laet
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Sylvia Thomssen	Bonnie Smith
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THE GULL

April 1979

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Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$4 per year; single issues 40¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**